

The Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC #7406-83
14 October 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR : Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH : Vice Chairman
National Intelligence Council

FROM : David D. Gries
National Intelligence Officer for Narcotics

SUBJECT : "Drug Tsar" Legislation: A Proposed Administration
Response

1. There is no intelligence aspect to House or Senate proposals or to the compromise proposed by Justice except for the following:

"In this regard, Biden has held out the intelligence community as a model of a coordinated multidepartmental effort. We believe his bill can be modified, therefore, to make it more consistent with the organization of the intelligence community while at the same time bringing it more into line with our current cabinet system."

The CIA will undoubtedly be asked for comments.

2. From a policy viewpoint the proposed compromise is sensible. It cuts the tsar down to size but gives the drug abuse program better focus. The tsar's role would be analogous to the DCI's role: guide, lead, persuade, instruct but only occasionally order or command. In other words, the tsar will be a constitutional monarch. In the circumstances that Congress is unlikely to drop the idea of a tsar, this is a reasonable compromise.

3. Given time limitations, this memorandum has not been coordinated with OGI, DDO or OGC. However, they are unlikely to object to arrangements patterned after the Intelligence Community.

David D. Gries
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cc: OGI
DDO
OGC

SECRET

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